

Appl. No.: 10/750,384
Amdt. Dated: 12/22/06
Reply to Office Action of: November 30, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because the species are independent or distinct and mutually exclusive.

Applicants elect species A, directed to claims wherein the rod is retained within the tube, without traverse. Applicants assert that claims 1-4, 6, 9-15 read on the elected species.

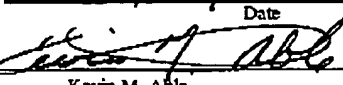
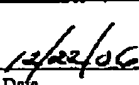
1. Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated in the accompanying form PTO-948 that the formal drawings previously submitted have been approved. An approval is hereby requested.

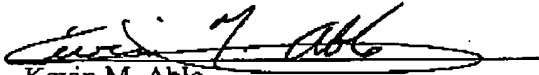
Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M. Able, (607) 974-2637.

12/22/06
Date

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8	
I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being transmitted by facsimile 571-273-8300 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at on:	
12/22/06 Date	
 Kevin M. Able	 Date

Respectfully submitted,
CORNING INCORPORATED


Kevin M. Able
Registration No. 52,401
Corning Incorporated
Patent Department
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831